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Taxonomy & Inventories

Pelecotoides sinicus, a new species of ripiphorid beetle from east China (Ripiphoridae, Ptilophorinae)

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Abstract

Background

The ripiphorid genus *Pelecotoides* Laporte, 1833 is distributed primarily throughout the Southern Hemisphere, with approximately 72 species. Although exhibiting robust species richness, only one *Pelecotoides* species, *P. tokejii* (Nomura & Nakane, 1959), has been recorded from Asia.

New information

Herein, *Pelecotoides sinicus* Jiang & Pan **sp. nov.** is described and illustrated from Zhejiang and Fujian, China, representing the second Asian species of *Pelecotoides*. This new species can be easily distinguished from *P. tokejii* by its sexually dimorphic antennae.

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Keywords

wedge-shaped beetles, Ptilophorinae, new species, China.

Introduction

Pelecotoides Laporte, 1833, previously known widely as *Trigonodera* Dejean, 1834 (see Batelka et al. (2025)), is the most speciose genus within the subfamily Ptilophorinae Gerstaecker, 1855. The genus includes approximately 72 species and occurs largely throughout South America, Australia and Africa (Falin 2002, Lawrence et al. 2010, Batelka and Chaboo 2015). However, it remains inadequately studied and is in need of complete revision. As defined in previous literature (Gerstaecker 1855, Batelka 2009, Batelka 2012), *Pelecotoides* is distinguished from other genera of Ptilophorinae by the combination of the following characters: male antennae short pectinate or serrate, basal antennomeres cylindrical; maxillary palpomere III shortest, labial palpomeres II and III subequal in length, ligula subcordate; eyes slightly emarginate; tibial spur formula 2-2-2, pretarsal claws with pectinate teeth along ventral face. The natural history of this genus is poorly known, except for observations that adults visit flowers during the day, exhibit positive phototaxis at night and can be collected by Malaise and light traps or by beating trees (Falin 2002, Hsiao and Huang 2017).

Although exhibiting robust species richness, *Pelecotoides* is known from Asia by only one species, *Pelecotoides tokejii* (Nomura & Nakane, 1959). Asian records include Japan and Taiwan, China (Nomura and Nakane 1959, Hsiao and Huang 2017). While examining Chinese ripiphorids, we discovered a new species, *Pelecotoides sinicus* Jiang & Pan, **sp. nov.**, from Zhejiang and Fujian Provinces (Figs. 1A–1B). The new species is described and illustrated below.

Materials and methods

The type material is deposited in the Museum of Hebei University, Baoding, China (MHBU) and the Collection of Forest Entomology Laboratory, Beijing Forestry University, Beijing, China (FELC), respectively. Images were produced using a Canon EOS 5D Mark III (Canon Inc., Tokyo, Japan) connected to a Laowa EF 100 mm F2.8 CA-Dreamer Macro 2× or Laowa EF 25 mm F2.8 Ultra Macro 2.5–5× (Anhui Changgeng Optics Technology Co., Ltd., Hefei, China).

The terms for male genitalia are based on those presented in Lawrence and Ślipiński (2013). Other morphological terms in the descriptions generally adhere to the previous literature (Nomura and Nakane 1959, Falin 2002).

Taxon treatment

Pelecotoides sinicus Jiang & Pan, sp. nov.

Materials

Holotype:

a. taxonomicStatus: accepted; nomenclaturalStatus: sp. nov; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Arthropoda; class: Insecta; order: Coleoptera; family: Ripiphoridae; taxonRank: species; verbatimTaxonRank: sp.; nomenclaturalCode: ICZN; genus: *Pelecotoides* ; specificEpithet: *sinicus*; scientificNameAuthorship: Jiang & Pan; continent: Asia; country: China; countryCode: China/CN; stateProvince: Zhejiang; county: Lin'an; locality: Tianmu Mountain Administration Bureau; verbatimElevation: 320 m; verbatimLatitude: 30d 18' 52.98" N; verbatimLongitude: 119d 26' 29.50" E; verbatimCoordinateSystem: degrees minutes seconds; verbatimSRS: GCJ02; year: 2014; month: 7; day: 20; sex: male; lifeStage: adult; establishmentMeans: wild; recordedBy: Cai-Xia Yuan; Di Li; identifiedBy: Pan Z; Jiang L-X; dateIdentified: 2024; type: PhysicalObject; language: en; rightsHolder: Museum of Hebei University; institutionCode: MHBU; occurrenceID: E9C60014-7469-594A-BAAB-C07355EA36B4

Paratypes:

a. taxonomicStatus: accepted; nomenclaturalStatus: sp. nov.; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Arthropoda; class: Insecta; order: Coleoptera; family: Ripiphoridae; taxonRank: species; verbatimTaxonRank: sp.; nomenclaturalCode: ICZN; genus: *Pelecotoides* ; specificEpithet: *sinicus*; scientificNameAuthorship: Jiang & Pan; continent: Asia; country: China; countryCode: China/CN; stateProvince: Zhejiang; county: Lin'an; locality: Tianmu Mountain Administration Bureau; verbatimElevation: 320 m; verbatimLatitude: 30d 18' 52.98" N; verbatimLongitude: 119d 26' 29.50" E; verbatimCoordinateSystem: degrees minutes seconds; verbatimSRS: GCJ02; year: 2014; month: 7; day: 20; individualCount: 2; sex: 1 male, 1 female; lifeStage: adult; establishmentMeans: wild; recordedBy: Cai-Xia Yuan; Di Li; identifiedBy: Pan Z; Jiang L-X; dateIdentified: 2024; type: PhysicalObject; language: en; rightsHolder: Museum of Hebei University; institutionCode: MHBU; occurrenceID: 94513128-F5A1-54DD-9A5F-09690CAEF37D

b. taxonomicStatus: accepted; nomenclaturalStatus: sp. nov.; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Arthropoda; class: Insecta; order: Coleoptera; family: Ripiphoridae; taxonRank: species; verbatimTaxonRank: sp.; nomenclaturalCode: ICZN; genus: *Pelecotoides* ; specificEpithet: *sinicus*; scientificNameAuthorship: Jiang & Pan; continent: Asia; country: China; countryCode: China/CN; stateProvince: Zhejiang; county: Lin'an; locality: Tianmu Mountain Administration Bureau; verbatimElevation: 320 m; verbatimLatitude: 30d 18' 52.98" N; verbatimLongitude: 119d 26' 29.50" E; verbatimCoordinateSystem: degrees minutes seconds; verbatimSRS: GCJ02; year: 2014; month: 7; day: 18; individualCount: 3; sex: 1 male, 2 females; lifeStage: adult; establishmentMeans: wild; recordedBy: Cai-Xia Yuan; Di Li; identifiedBy: Pan Z; Jiang L-X; dateIdentified: 2024; type: PhysicalObject; language: en; rightsHolder: Museum of Hebei University; institutionCode: MHBU; occurrenceID: AC935F3F-2C3D-5BE7-8194-B87F4E15F637

c. taxonomicStatus: accepted; nomenclaturalStatus: sp. nov.; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Arthropoda; class: Insecta; order: Coleoptera; family: Ripiphoridae; taxonRank: species; verbatimTaxonRank: sp.; nomenclaturalCode: ICZN; genus: *Pelecotoides* ; specificEpithet: *sinicus*; scientificNameAuthorship: Jiang & Pan; continent: Asia; country: China; countryCode: China/CN; stateProvince: Zhejiang; county: Lin'an; locality: Tianmu

Mountain; individualCount: 1; sex: female; lifeStage: adult; establishmentMeans: wild; identifiedBy: Pan Z; Jiang L-X; type: PhysicalObject; language: en; rightsHolder: Collection of Forest Entomology Laboratory; institutionCode: FELC; occurrenceID: 215C3DD9-AB5C-565A-BEC2-10FD1AF0EACE

d. taxonomicStatus: accepted; nomenclaturalStatus: sp. nov.; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Arthropoda; class: Insecta; order: Coleoptera; family: Ripiphoridae; taxonRank: species; verbatimTaxonRank: sp.; nomenclaturalCode: ICZN; genus: *Pelecotoides* ; specificEpithet: *sinicus*; scientificNameAuthorship: Jiang & Pan; continent: Asia; country: China; countryCode: China/CN; stateProvince: Zhejiang; county: Lin'an; locality: West Tianmu Mountain; verbatimElevation: 300-400 m; year: 2006; month: 7; day: 27-29; individualCount: 1; sex: female; lifeStage: adult; establishmentMeans: wild; recordedBy: Wen-Xuan Bi; identifiedBy: Pan Z; Jiang L-X; type: PhysicalObject; language: en; rightsHolder: Collection of Forest Entomology Laboratory; institutionCode: FELC; occurrenceID: A946434B-3DB7-5B50-BD66-8DC6EF54FDC6

e. taxonomicStatus: accepted; nomenclaturalStatus: sp. nov.; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Arthropoda; class: Insecta; order: Coleoptera; family: Ripiphoridae; taxonRank: species; verbatimTaxonRank: sp.; nomenclaturalCode: ICZN; genus: *Pelecotoides* ; specificEpithet: *sinicus*; scientificNameAuthorship: Jiang & Pan; continent: Asia; country: China; countryCode: China/CN; stateProvince: Zhejiang; county: Lin'an; locality: West Tianmu Mountain; verbatimElevation: 300-400 m; verbatimLatitude: 30d 19′ N; verbatimLongitude: 119d 27′ E; verbatimCoordinateSystem: degrees decimal minutes; verbatimSRS: GCJ02; samplingProtocol: light trap; year: 2006; month: 8; day: 18; individualCount: 3; sex: female; establishmentMeans: wild; recordedBy: Hong-Liang Shi; identifiedBy: Pan Z; Jiang L-X; type: PhysicalObject; language: en; rightsHolder: Collection of Forest Entomology Laboratory; institutionCode: FELC; occurrenceID: 63B41E0E-30B2-5B37-9E5E-94CFB275927E

f. taxonomicStatus: accepted; nomenclaturalStatus: sp. nov.; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Arthropoda; class: Insecta; order: Coleoptera; family: Ripiphoridae; taxonRank: species; verbatimTaxonRank: sp.; nomenclaturalCode: ICZN; genus: *Pelecotoides* ; specificEpithet: *sinicus*; scientificNameAuthorship: Jiang & Pan; continent: Asia; country: China; countryCode: China/CN; stateProvince: Zhejiang; county: Lin'an; locality: West Tianmu Mountain; verbatimElevation: 300-400 m; verbatimLatitude: 30d 19′ N; verbatimLongitude: 119d 27′ E; verbatimCoordinateSystem: degrees decimal minutes; verbatimSRS: GCJ02; samplingProtocol: light trap; year: 2006; month: 8; day: 20; individualCount: 1; sex: female; lifeStage: adult; establishmentMeans: wild; recordedBy: Hong-Liang Shi; identifiedBy: Pan Z; Jiang L-X; type: PhysicalObject; language: en; rightsHolder: Collection of Forest Entomology Laboratory; institutionCode: FELC; occurrenceID: 4A50C92D-5BA9-50AE-A14B-88BD17F14AFE

g. taxonomicStatus: sp. nov.; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Arthropoda; class: Insecta; order: Coleoptera; family: Ripiphoridae; taxonRank: species; verbatimTaxonRank: sp.; nomenclaturalCode: ICZN; genus: *Pelecotoides* ; specificEpithet: *sinicus*; scientificNameAuthorship: Jiang & Pan; continent: Asia; country: China; countryCode: China/CN; stateProvince: Zhejiang; county: Lin'an; locality: Tianmu Mountain, Qiangwei Garden; verbatimElevation: 300 m; samplingProtocol: light trap; year: 2019; month: 7; day: 25; individualID: R1B1; R1B2; individualCount: 2; sex: male; lifeStage: adult; establishmentMeans: wild; recordedBy: Jia-Chen Zhu; Xiao-Fei Li; Ze-Kai Li; identifiedBy: Pan Z; Jiang L-X; type: PhysicalObject; language: en; rightsHolder: Museum of Hebei University; institutionCode: MHBU; occurrenceID: 07F941AA-4388-5DC0-A7D8-8151541E3D71

h. taxonomicStatus: accepted; nomenclaturalStatus: sp. nov.; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Arthropoda; class: Insecta; order: Coleoptera; family: Ripiphoridae; taxonRank: species; verbatimTaxonRank: sp.; nomenclaturalCode: ICZN; genus: *Pelecotoides* ; specificEpithet: *sinicus*; scientificNameAuthorship: Jiang & Pan; continent: Asia; country: China; countryCode: China/CN; stateProvince: Zhejiang; county: Lin'an; locality: Tianmu Mountain, Qiangwei Garden; verbatimElevation: 300 m; samplingProtocol: light trap; year: 2019; month: 7; day: 26; individualCount: 1; sex: male; lifeStage: adult; establishmentMeans: wild; recordedBy: Jia-Chen Zhu; Xiao-Fei Li; Ze-Kai Li; identifiedBy: Pan Z; Jiang L-X; type: PhysicalObject; language: en; rightsHolder: Museum of Hebei University; institutionCode: MHBU; occurrenceID: A2525EDE-7722-57BE-9BB8-DC485D0B2300

i. taxonomicStatus: accepted; nomenclaturalStatus: sp. nov.; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Arthropoda; class: Insecta; order: Coleoptera; family: Ripiphoridae; taxonRank: species; verbatimTaxonRank: sp.; nomenclaturalCode: ICZN; genus: *Pelecotoides* ; specificEpithet: *sinicus*; scientificNameAuthorship: Jiang & Pan; continent: Asia; country: China; countryCode: China/CN; stateProvince: Zhejiang; county: Lin'an; locality: Tianmu Mountain, Chanyuan Temple; verbatimElevation: 397 m; verbatimLatitude: 30d 19′ 27.07″ N; verbatimLongitude: 119d 26′ 29.52″ E; verbatimCoordinateSystem: degrees minutes seconds; verbatimSRS: GCJ02; year: 2014; month: 7; day: 19; individualCount: 1; sex: female; recordedBy: Sai-Hong Dong; Shan-Shan Liu; identifiedBy: Pan Z; Jiang L-X; type: PhysicalObject; language: en; rightsHolder: Museum of Hebei University; institutionCode: MHBU; occurrenceID: BFB4B97D-8E14-5807-A4B8-B8EDBA2FA006

j. taxonomicStatus: accepted; nomenclaturalStatus: sp. nov.; kingdom: Animalia; phylum: Arthropoda; class: Insecta; order: Coleopatera; family: Ripiphoridae; taxonRank: species; verbatimTaxonRank: sp.; nomenclaturalCode: ICZN; genus: *Pelecotoides* ; specificEpithet: *sinicus*; scientificNameAuthorship: Jiang & Pan; continent: Asia; countryCode: China/CN; stateProvince: Fujian; county: Wuping; municipality: Yanqian Township; locality: Butterfly Valley; verbatimElevation: 400 m; verbatimLatitude: 26.3133d N; verbatimLongitude: 117.5003d E; verbatimCoordinateSystem: decimal degrees; verbatimSRS: GCJ02; year: 2024; month: 10; day: 3; individualCount: 1; sex: female; lifeStage: adult; establishmentMeans: wild; recordedBy: Hong-Liang Shi; Gan-Yan Yang; Zhi-Duo Shi; identifiedBy: Pan Z; Jiang L-X; type: PhysicalObject; language: en; rightsHolder: Museum of Hebei University; institutionCode: MHBU; occurrenceID: F34544F8-FC40-5F50-8759-B6444ACDD70C

Description

Male (Fig. 1A): Body length: 5.7–8.5 mm, humeral width: 2.1–2.8 mm (n = 6); reddish-brown, except frons, occiput, centre of pronotum, mesanepisternum and tibial spurs dark, approximately apical 1/4 of mandibles black, antennomeres I–III lighter than remaining antennomeres, abdominal ventrites usually yellowish-brown; body densely covered with yellow setae partially lacking in a few individuals due to poor preservation.

Head (Fig. 2C) longer (1.83 mm) than wide (1.38 mm), with small and dense punctures; frons slightly depressed; frontoclypeal suture obsolete; anterior clypeal margin straight; labrum transverse, anterior margin slightly emarginate mesally; mandibles long, sickle-shaped; maxillary palpomere II approximately as long as, but narrower than IV. Anterior margins of compound eyes distinctly emarginate to

accommodate antennal fossae. Antennae (Fig. 2A) approximately 1.85× pronotal length, with 11 antennomeres; antennomeres I–III subcylindrical, antennomere I widened apically, antennomeres II–III short, antennomere II shortest; antennomeres IV–X short pectinate; length ratio between each antennomere and shorest one (II) as follows: I: 1.9; III: 1.1; IV: 3.0; V: 3.6; VI: 4.0; VII: 4.0; VIII: 4.0; IX: 4.0; X: 4.7; XI: 8.5; length ratio between each ramus of antennomeres IV–X and antennomere II as follows: IV: 3.2; V: 4.3; VI: 5.0; VII: 5.3; VIII: 5.4; IX: 5.4; X: 5.0.

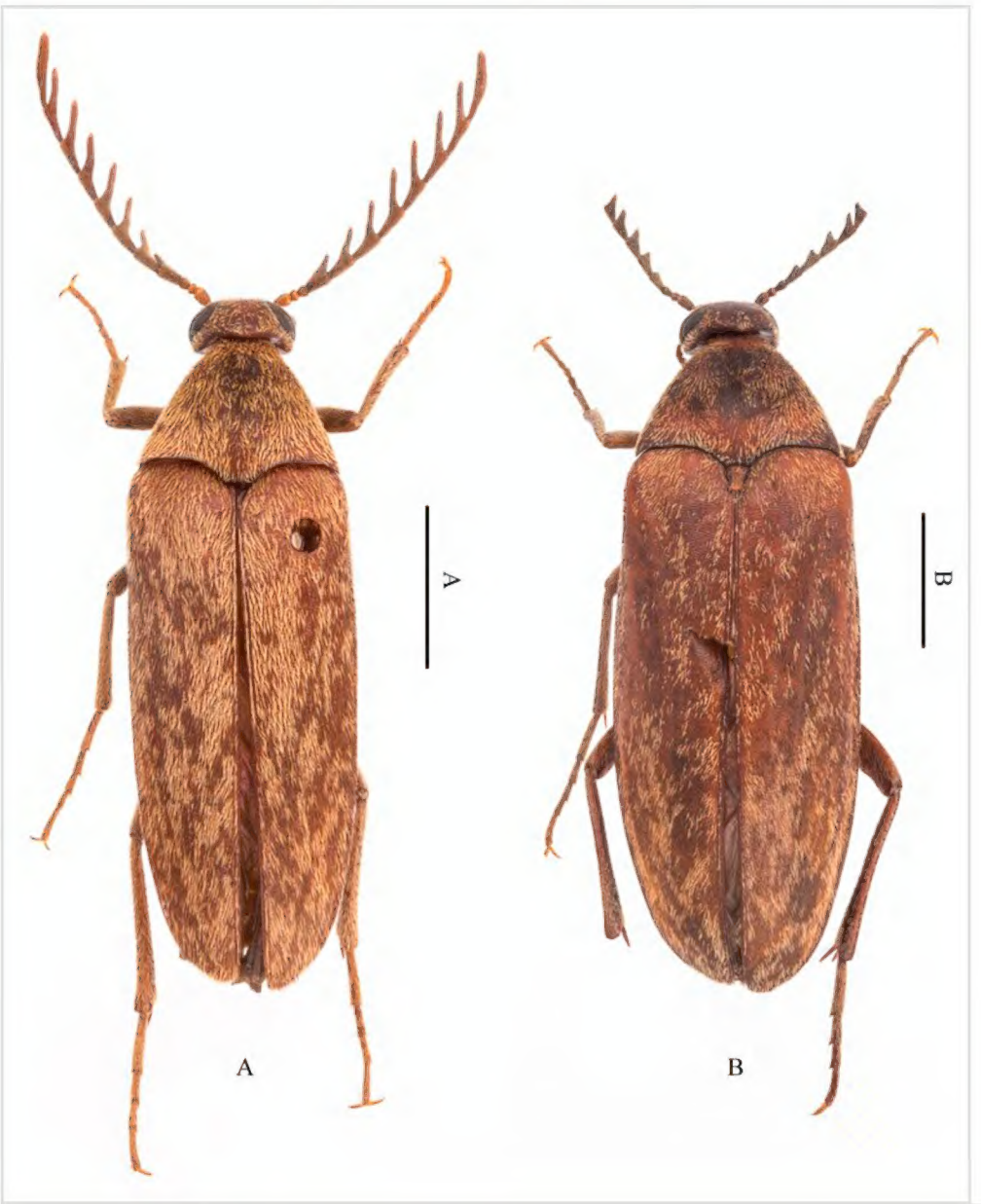

Figure 1. doi

Habitus of *Pelecotoides sinicus* Jiang & Pan, sp. nov., paratypes, dorsal view. **A** Male; **B** Female. Scale bar: 2 mm.

Pronotum (Fig. 2D) approximately as long as head, indistinctly trilobed, posterior angles slightly protruding, median lobe distinctly protruding, with posterior margin mesally emarginate; disc convex at centre, with small, dense punctures; lateral carinae distinct and complete. Scutellar shield ovatel. Elytra long, complete, gradually narrowed posterially, rounded apically, sparsely setose basally. Femora widened; tibiae straight, tibial spur formula 2-2-2, each inner spur longer than outer spur, especially those of mesotibia; pretarsal claws pectinate, each with 6-8 teeth along ventral face.

Abdomen with five, densely punctate ventrites. Posterior margin of ventrite V emarginate mesally. Aedeagus sclerotised (Fig. 2E–I); phallobase asymmetrical, with a brown longitudinal oblique stripe and few apical setae (Fig. 2E–G); parameres highly sclerotised, slightly curved apically, hook-shaped (Fig. 2E-G); median lobe asymmetrical, approximately twice as long as tegmen, gradually narrowed apically, apex pointed (Fig. 2H and I).

Female (Fig. 1B). Similar to male, but body larger, length: 9.2–10.6 mm; humeral width 3.8–4.5 mm (n = 11). Abdominal ventrites dark brown. Antennae (Fig. 2B) shorter, approximately 1.3× pronotal length, antennomeres IV–X serrate; ratio between length (width) of each antennomere and length of antennomere II as follows: I: 2.3 (1.2); II: 1.0 (1.0); III: 1.7 (1.0); IV: 2.5 (1.5); V: 3.5 (2.1); VI: 3.2 (2.3); VII: 3.2 (2.3); VIII: 2.7 (2.0); IX: 2.8 (2.3); X: 2.6 (2.0); XI: 3.1 (1.2). Tibial spurs more robust than those of male. Posterior margin of ventrite V straight.

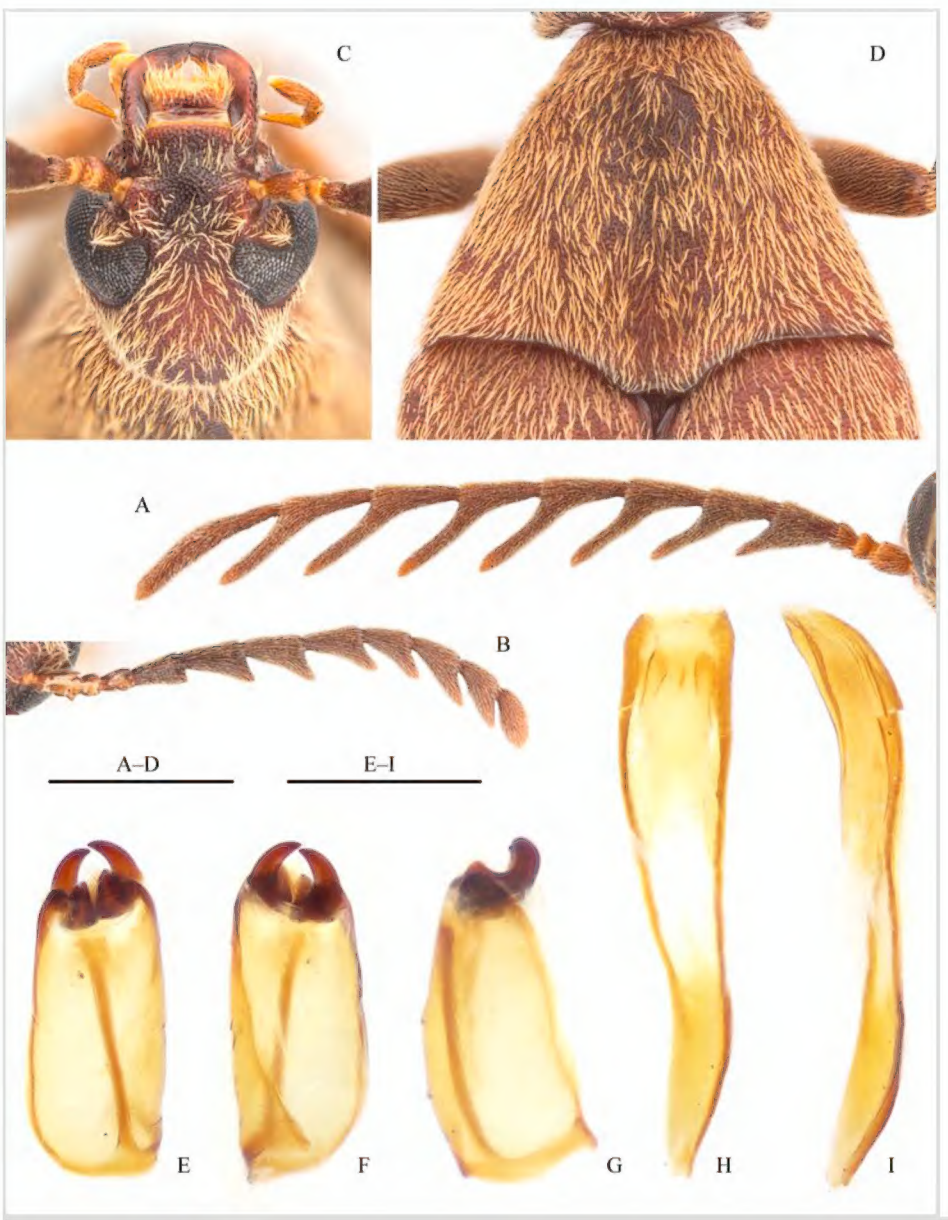

Figure 2. doi

Characters of *Pelecotoides sinicus* Jiang & Pan, sp. nov., paratypes. **A, B** Antennae of male (A) and female (B); **C** Head; **D** Pronotum; **E–G** Tegmen; dorsal view (E), ventral view (F) and lateral view (G); **H–I** Median lobe; dorsal view (H) and lateral view (I). Scale bars: 1 mm (A–D); 0.5 mm (E–I).

Diagnosis

The new species can be easily distinguished from the other Asian *Pelecotoides* species, *P. tokejii*, by the following characters: body (length 5.7–8.5 mm in male, n = 6; 9.2–10.6 mm in female, n = 11) usually smaller than that of *P. tokejii* (length 8.0–15.0 mm in both sexes, Nomura and Nakane (1959), Hsiao and Huang (2017); based on our collections, male length 10.9 mm and female length 12.5 mm, n = 1, respectively); antennae of *P. sinicus* Jiang & Pan, sp. nov. pectinate in male, but serrate in female (Figs. 2A–2B), those of *P. tokejii* serrate in both sexes [figs. 2.1–2.2 in Nomura and Nakane (1959); ratio between the length (width) of each antennomere and length of antennomere II as follows: male: I: 1.5 (0.8); II: 1.0 (0.8); III: 1.3 (1.0); IV: 1.1 (0.8); V: 1.2 (0.9); VI: 1.9 (1.1); VII: 1.8 (1.1); VIII: 1.7 (1.1); IX: 1.6 (1.0); X: 1.5 (1.0); XI: 1.8 (1.1); female: I: 2.3 (1.1); II: 1.0 (0.9); III: 1.5 (0.9); IV: 1.0 (0.8); V: 1.1 (1.0); VI: 1.9 (1.3); VII: 1.8 (1.3); VIII: 1.8 (1.3); IX: 1.7 (1.2); X: 1.5 (1.1); XI: 2.3 (1.1)]; posterior margin of basal pronotal median lobe distinctly emarginate in *P. sinicus* Jiang & Pan, sp. nov. (Fig. 2D), but almost straight in *P. tokejii*.

Etymology

The specific name comes from the Latin adjective "*sinicus*" for "Chinese", in reference to the type locality east China.

Distribution

China: Zhejiang, Fujian.

Taxon discussion

A comparison of the new species with *P. tokejii* reveals distinct sexual dimorphism, manifesting in the distinct shapes of the body and antenna. The male body is slightly smaller and more slender than the female body. A supplementary note must be made concerning the ratio between the body length and the widest width of the elytra, which is approximately 3.0 mm in males and 2.8 mm in females. In addition, as previously described, the antennae of males are pectinate, while those of females are serrate.

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Author contributions

Resources: XML, ZP. Validation: ZP. Visualisation: LXJ, YCZ. Writing – original draft: LXJ, YCZ. Writing – review and editing: XML, ZP.

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